

The Odyssey

The Sirens or Odysseus Ties Himself to a Mast and No One's Surprised

by Kinsey Kunkel

Based upon Homer's "The Odyssey"

THE ODYSSEY: EPISODE 5: THE SIRENS OR ODYSSEUS TIES HIMSELF
TO A MAST AND NO ONE'S SURPRISED

EXT. CIRCE'S ISLAND-DAY

The men stand before CIRCE, who applauds them.

CIRCE
Excellent. Good job!

ODYSSEUS
Thanks, so uh, how do we get home?

CIRCE
Okay, go straight until you reach
the sirens, take a right at Scylla
and Charybdis, the straight on
until Ithaca. You can't miss it. If
you reach the Peloponesus, you've
gone too far.

ODYSSEUS
Splendid. Well, bye then!

CIRCE
Before you go, remember: block your
ears from the song of the sirens or
you'll be lured to your deaths.

ODYSSEUS
(Impertinent)
What if I wanna hear the song of
the sirens?

Circe rubs her temples.

CIRCE
Then be the only one to hear it.

ODYSSEUS
Sweet. Will do.

EXT. THE HOMER-DAY

Odysseus's men stand around in an informal meeting around
him.

ODYSSEUS
Alright. Here's what we're gonna
do. See this?

He holds up a lump of beeswax.

ODYSSEUS
You're gonna stick this stuff in
your ears and your gonna like it.

The men groan.

ODYSSEUS
Then you tie me to a mast.

The men cheer.

EXT. BALCONY-EVENING

Alcinous and Odysseus stand at the balcony rail.

ODYSSEUS

They were a little too excited
about that.

ALCINOUS

Well, I mean...

ODYSSEUS

Anyway, I tied myself to a mast.

ALCINOUS

As you do.

EXT. HOMER-DAY

Odysseus is tied to the mast. The men go about their
business with sticky beeswax dripping down their necks.

ODYSSEUS

Hey, Eurylicus! Can you grab me a
drink?

EURYLICUS can't hear him.

ODYSSEUS

Eurylicus! EURYLICUS!

Still nothing. Odysseus sighs. Close on Eurylicus's face,
snickering to himself. BARYPOS shouts from the wheel.

BARYPOS

Coming up on the Siren's island!

EXT. SIREN'S ISLAND-DAY

SIRENS 1, 2 and 3 stand on the shore.

SIREN 1

Hey! Hey look! A ship!

SIREN 2

(excited)

Oh, oh, oh!

SIREN 3

DINNER!

SIREN 1

Quick! Time to sing, ladies!

EXT. THE HOMER-DAY

Odysseus looks expectantly at the sirens.

They begin to sing...horribly.

EXT. BALCONY-EVENING

Odysseus sits on the balcony rail.

ALCINOUS

I'm almost tempted to push you.

ODYSSEUS

Why?

ALCINOUS

Because you really should be dead by now. Thanatos must be eager to get his hands on you.

Odysseus shrugs.

ODYSSEUS

I wished I was dead, my man. Never in my entire life have I heard anything worse than the sound of those sirens.

EXT. HOMER-DAY

ODYSSEUS

(screaming in agony)

SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

He catches Etesias's eye.

ODYSSEUS

Help me, Etesias! Untie me please!
I'm begging you! I NEED BEESWAX!
I'M GONNA KILL 'EM!

Etesias can't hear him. He taps Barypos on the shoulder and jerks his head at Odysseus. Barypos nods and the two men get more rope and tie Odie tighter.

ODYSSEUS

(Wailing)

NO! NO! NO! STOP! STOP IT!

Then he screams, no words, just screaming. Really loud, obnoxious screaming.

EXT. SIREN'S ISLAND-DAY

The ship sails on by. Odysseus's agonized screams echo in the distance. The sirens trail off.

SIREN 3

No dinner?

Siren 1 smacks Siren 2.

SIREN 1
Your fault!

SIREN 2
Excuse me?

SIREN 1
You sing like a laestrygonian.

SIREN 3
Ouch.

SIREN 2
How dare you!

The Second siren points at the third.

SIREN 2
She wasn't singing loud enough!

SIREN 3
I can't believe you would say
something like that!

The Siren squabble and we pull away from them.

EXT. HOMER-DAY

Odysseus hangs limply in his bindings, tears streaming down his face. The men take their time rinsing the beeswax out of their ears before cutting Odysseus loose. Barypos takes note of his tear-stained face.

BARYPOS
Woah. What did you hear?

ODYSSEUS
(traumatized)
I don't want to talk about it.

BARYPOS
(to Etesais)
Wow, it must have been something
really special and personal.

Odysseus gapes at Barypos. After a moment, he breaks down into tears again and throws his arms around Barypos who reacts, stunned.

ODYSSEUS
(gross sobbing)
I wanna go home!

The men look genuinely concerned.

ETESIAS
Can I get you a snack? We still
have Polyphemus cheese.

ODYSSEUS
That would be nice.

BARYPOS
Come on then men! Back to your
posts!

EXT. BALCONY-EVENING

Odysseus balances on the rail. Alcinous eyes him expectantly, aware of the inevitable.

ODYSSEUS
The sirens were probably the worst
part of the trip.

ALCINOUS
Worse than the Cyclops?

Odysseus looks at Alcinous seriously.

ODYSSEUS
The Cyclops didn't sing.

ALCINOUS
Fair enough. Now Circe mentioned
Charybdis and Scylla.

Odysseus spins to face Alcinous.

ODYSSEUS
You're getting ahead of me, Al.

The sudden movement throws Odysseus off balance. He tries to catch himself but falls over the edge.

Alcinous peers over the rail, struggling to contain his laughter.

ALCINOUS
You okay down there?

Odysseus lays on his back in the grass, shell-shocked.

He groans in reply.

Alcinous catches the attention of a SERVANT.

ALCINOUS
(chuckling)
Could you go take Mr. Odysseus to
his room please?

The end.

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